Bamboo centre of excellence

2630. SHRI A.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent Authority of Kerala had submitted two proposals *viz.*, establishment of Bamboo Centre of Excellence and artisan level training programme during September, 2006, related to Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra;

(b) if so, whether the above projects were approved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, action therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal has been received from the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra for "Setting up of a Bamboo Centre of Excellence" including artisan level training programme and the same has been sent to the Government of Kerala for comments.

(b) to (d) The question does not arise.

Agriculture infrastructure and investment

2631. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy on agriculture infrastructure and investment;

(b) if so, the details to ensure that agriculture costs are covered under basic price support mechanism, trading of agriculture produce and availability of reliable and assured credit, State-wise, category-wise, as on today; and

(c) if so, the number of farmers who applied for credit and the number of farmers granted, agencies granted credit, the steps taken for trading of agriculture produce and financial support provided to States to support farmers for price support, credit provision and extension services for the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special Agriculture Zones

2632. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the suggestions given by eminent scientist Dr. Swaminathan on Special Agriculture Zones;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?